

Cross Currents

Lutheran
Church
of the Cross
2022



As we prepare to celebrate July 4th, let us take a look at the words that birthed our nation:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." – Thomas Jefferson, *The Declaration of Independence* (1776)

"Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal." – Abraham Lincoln, *The Gettysburg Address* (1863)

You have probably heard the phrase, "Those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it." Penned by Winston Churchill, these words encourage us to reflect on the valuable lessons our ancestors have learned as we also learn along the way. Buried deep in this kind of wisdom is perhaps the most important lesson of all: *who you are to become first must go through who we've been.*

In our modern culture, we can at times be tempted to just push through difficulties in our lives. We are tempted to hide our struggles; to just polish the outside, hiding what lies inside. Consider this: if as we push through the past, not learning from the lessons we've gone through, could it mean we become something God never intended us to be?

It seems that life is not linear, meaning that we start at point A and end at point B. Life seems to take on more of a cyclical pattern, where we come back to face both joys and concerns again and again in our lives, and sometimes in different ways. Each time we cycle through times of grief and joy, we are invited to grow, mature, and learn to trust in the ways that God heals, teaches, and sustains our lives. And what a joy and gift to find that for those who are willing to sit in the cycles of life and learn, often the wisdom gained helps us to journey with others, helping our brothers and sisters along the way!

As a community we have been through an exceedingly difficult season, and it may not yet have come to a close. However, just as our ancient faith ancestors did, God is asking us to sit down along the shores of the river of life and learn through this time.

On July 17th I invite you to sit and listen to the words of our guest preacher Deacon Colleen Bernu, Director for Evangelical Mission and Synod Minister for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion. Deacon Bernu will host an adult forum at 10:40am to listen and to reflect on the world today, where we have been and a look towards the future where "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness" is included for all people.

May we as a faith community listen to the lessons, ponder what God has done, what God will continue to do, and be made to share the Good News that God is always with us. Amen!

Blessings,
Pastor Drew



CHURCH
IN THE
Memorial Garden

Join us July 31st in the Memorial Garden at 10:30 am for outdoor worship service. Bring your own chair or blanket. The 9:00 am service will be held in the sanctuary and online as usual.

SAVE THE DATE! Opportunity for Conversation

SUNDAY, JULY 17, 2022 - ADULT FORUM IN CHAPEL HALL - @ 10:40 AM (After Coffee Fellowship)

Our guest preacher and teacher for the morning is Deacon Colleen Bernu, Director for Evangelical Mission and Synod Minister for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for the NE MN Synod. She will guide us through the important ELCA "Declaration to American Indian and Alaskan Native People."



SAVE THE DATE - JULY 17, 2022 - IMPORTANT INTRODUCTION TO THE ELCA'S DECLARATION TO AMERICAN INDIANS - PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR TODAY

Treasurer's Report - Financial Summary 2022 General Fund

			Annual	% YTD of Annual
	<u>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 45,651	\$ 274,411	\$ 688,900	39.8%
Expenses	\$ 55,178	\$ 267,727	\$ 688,900	38.9%
Difference	(\$ 9,527)	\$ 6,684	\$ 0	

**In the month of May our expenses were greater than our income by \$9,527.
Thank you for your continued support.**



FUNERAL

Name: Darlene Painter

Born: July 21, 1940

Died in Christ: April 4, 2022

Funeral: June 15, 2022

Pastor Drew Bakken, Officiant

WEDDING

Name: Joe Breen & Gail Fischer

June 25, 2022

Pastor Drew Bakken, Officiant

**Update
your
Information!**



If you would like to receive weekly eblast notifications, please email the church office at laurie@lccnisswa.org with the email address you wish us to use.

Have you changed your phone number, or no longer use your landline, changed your mailing address, etc.? If so, please let us know so we can update our database.



Lutheran Church of the Cross, Niswaga

We had a great week of ELCA World Hunger's "The Healing Tree" VBX. Thanks to the efforts of our wonderful LCC staff, many devoted adult volunteers, and enthusiastic youth crew leaders, our Cross Kids were able to learn about the importance of keeping ourselves healthy - physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. Plus, we had tons of fun and GREAT snacks! Thanks for your prayers of support and your generous donations.





We request prayers as Kari, Pastor Drew and 24 youth head to Luther Crest the end of July.



Our youth have been busy with Summer Stretch! They do service work in the morning (so far we've done our highway clean up on 371, yard and miscellaneous work at Salem West, and helped with LCC's VBX). We also enjoy lunch and a devotion, followed by fun in the afternoon. We had a blast at Nisswa Falls Mini Golf, at Three Bear Waterpark, and Bowling at Jack's House. Did I mention that we have some fantastic youth at LCC??!! Kudos to all of them, their parents, and our church family who supports us with prayer.





Hymn of the Month



July 2022

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow (OLD HUNDREDTH) The Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.*

We don't sing this enough! It should be sung every day! Praise God!!

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. Ephesians 1:3

Before Charles Wesley or Isaac Watts, there was Thomas Ken who has been called "England's first hymnist." He was born in 1637 in Little Berkhamstead on the fringes of greater London. When his parents died, he was raised by his half-sister and her husband who enrolled him in Winchester College, a historic boys' school. Thomas was later ordained to the ministry and returned to Winchester as a chaplain.

To encourage the devotional habits of the boys, Thomas wrote three hymns in 1674. This was revolutionary because English hymns had not yet appeared. Only the Psalms were sung in public worship. Ken suggested the boys use the hymns privately in their rooms.

One hymn was to be sung upon waking, another at bedtime, and a third at midnight if sleep didn't come. His morning hymn had thirteen stanzas, beginning with:

*Awake, my soul, and with the sun thy daily stage of duty run;
Shake off dull sloth and joyful rise, to pay thy morning sacrifice.*

His evening hymn, equally meaningful, included this verse:

*All praise to Thee, my God, this night, for all the blessing of the light!
Keep me, O keep me, King of kings, beneath Thine own almighty wings.*

All three hymns ended with a common stanza, which has since become the most widely-sung verse in the world.

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.*

In 1680, Thomas was appointed chaplain to England's King Charles II. It was a thankless job, as Charles kept a variety of mistresses. Once the king asked to lodge a mistress in the chaplain's residence. Thomas rebuked him, saying, "Not for the King's Kingdom!" Afterward the king referred to him as "that little man who refused lodging to poor Nellie."

During the reign of the next king, James II, Thomas, by now a bishop, was sent to the Tower of London for Protestant convictions. After his release, Thomas retired to the home of a wealthy friend where he died on March 11, 1711. He was buried at sunrise, and the Doxology was sung at his funeral.

Material for this article is from "Then Sings My Soul", Robert J. Morgan

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow! AMEN? AMEN!!

Cathy Taylor, Minister of Music

*Meet in the Choir Room at 8:15am -
all are welcome!*



Lakes Area Music Festival Concerts at Lutheran Church of the Cross

Sunday, July 10 - 7:30 p.m.

Musicians of the Milwaukee Symphony bring a program of some of their favorite string quartets for the kickoff of the Lakes Area Music Festival's Prelude Series. The program will include the very first string quartet by Ludwig van Beethoven, alongside the works by American composer: Jessie Montgomery's *Strum* and the well-known, mournful Adagio by Samuel Barber. LAMF's artistic directors Scott Lykins and Taylor Ward will also talk about the upcoming 14th annual festival season. No tickets required; donations accepted at the door.

Sunday, July 24 - 7:30 p.m.

The final performance of this year's Prelude Series will feature the emerging talents of the Lakes Area Music Festival's Vocal Fellows. These talented singers will spend three weeks in Brainerd performing, learning, and singing in this year's opera production: Richard Strauss' *Ariadne auf Naxos*. At this recital you'll hear four artists performing their favorite songs by Strauss, Debussy, Mozart, and more! No tickets required; donations accepted at the door.

LAKES AREA
MUSIC
FESTIVAL

Grab your walking shoes and join church friends at **Camp Yap-a-Lap!!**
Walk from the church back steps every Tuesday this summer, at 9 am.
We will navigate an easy 2-mile trek from the church. Choose your distance
and walk at your own pace (laps) and enjoy lots of fun conversation (yaps).
No sign up – just show up.

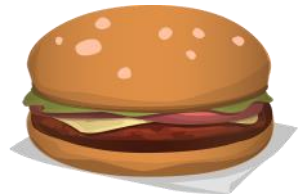
Questions? Maureen Schmidt (schmidtm@nisswa.net)
Jean Kraft (jean.kraft@icloud.com)



Ponder and Prayer Group

Every Monday during the summer we will meet in the sanctuary from 10:00-11:00 AM for a time of prayer. Come join us for a time of "being still before the Lord". You are welcome to come on any Monday you are available. All are invited.

Pizza and Games will be on Friday, July 15, from 5:30-7:30 pm. We will be serving Pizza, Burgers, Fruit, and Dessert. We have lots of fun games to choose from, or bring your favorite game. Come join in the fun! Hope to see you on July 15!



WOMEN of the WORD BIBLE STUDY—Change of date for July

Women in the Word will be on **Tuesday, July 12**, at 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM, instead of July 5. Come join us on July 12th for a great study in God's Word, tasty treats, and good strong coffee. No preparation needed. Just come. We can't wait to see you. Talk to Vicar Michelle with any questions.





More Summer Stretch!



Bible Study Wednesday, July 13, 2022 - Noon

We are continuing our Summer Gather Bible Studies, Crafted in Christ: A summer of rest and renewal by the Rev. Katie Hines-Shah. We are using the concept of quilting to explore rest, renewal, and Christian community. Our July 13, 2022, Session 2: is Quilt Cutting and Piecing, and explores how our lives and Christian communities come together into a cohesive whole, including people of all shapes and sizes, abilities, and talents. Susan Boulka is our hostess, and Jodi Milli is the Bible Study leader.

Make a Place at the Table - NE MN Synod Women of the ELCA Summer Convention June 6, 2022 through Wednesday, June 8, 2022 Recap

Carolyn Blanck, Bonnie Stevens, and I were lucky enough to attend the NE MN Synod Women of the ELCA (WELCA) Summer Convention. Many people do not understand what W/ELCA is and say it is something their mother or grandmother belonged to where they had coffee and swapped recipes. They think it is part of the past and not part of their future. They do not think it is current or is out of touch with the times we live in. How wrong they are.

First, WELCA's mission statement is, *Mobilizing* women to act **boldly** on their faith in Jesus Christ. They define their purpose as: as a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and **empowered** by the Holy Spirit, we **commit ourselves** to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.

Second, at the convention, the topics of the workshops could not be more relevant to today's world. We were not taking cooking lessons. Instead, we had these workshops to choose from:

1. Holy Ground, Holy Table: Integrating Creation Care in Church Ministry;
2. Tending to our Bodies, Minds, and Spirits;
3. When we Fight Racism, We All Win;
4. LGBTQ+ Inclusion; and,
5. LSS Refugee Services and Refugee Resettlement Experience.

Third, here is a list of the Resolutions which were brought and passed at the convention:

1. **Working Together to End Hunger**, calling on women to (1) increase support to local hunger ministries, (2) increase awareness of hunger and poverty issues through education using resources developed by ELCA World Hunger and other hunger ministries, and (3) increase opportunities to financially support the work of ELCA World Hunger;
2. **Decreasing Violence in our Country**, calling on women to (1) pray for families of those who have lost their lives to violence as well as the perpetrators and their families, (2) learn about, speak about, and advocate for funding to enhance mental health services in schools, churches, business, and communities, and (3) advocate with local, state, and federal officials/office holders to promote, pass and enforce laws which could include: Red Flag laws, raising the legal age for purchase of assault weapons, and/or to expand and strengthen background checks;
3. **Continuing Support for Afghan Refugees** calling on women to continue to pray for and support Afghan refugees wherever and whenever possible, and advocate to our Senators and Representatives in Washington to pass an Afghan Adjustment Act in support of Afghan refugees with humanitarian status who wish to become citizens of our country; and,

4. **Support for Our Ukrainian Siblings** calling on women to commit to (1) pray for the hosts and the Ukrainian people who are displaced as well as for an end to the ongoing war, (2) make ourselves aware of ways to support both Ukrainian refugees and those offering hospitality through organizations such as Lutheran World Relief, ELCA Disaster Response, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Lutheran World Federation and others, and (3) remember that we are ALL God's children and God asks us to welcome everyone.

THIS IS WHERE YOU COME IN. Please come and join us at our monthly Gather Bible Studies and our quarterly business meetings, as well as consider attending future Heartland Conference meetings and NE MN Synodical Women's Organization conventions. You have the opportunity **right now** to be God's hands and feet in the world by working with Women of the Cross. Together we can accomplish great things for the Lord.

Submitted by,

Jodi Milli



Prime Timers have now switched meeting dates to the second Thursday of the month. Join us **Thursday, July 14th at noon** at LCC. Bring your own lunch (beverages & dessert provided). Following lunch, we will carpool to Minnesota Military Museum at Camp Ripley. Admission will be \$3 per person. Please note: Camp Ripley requires ALL adult occupants of vehicles entering Camp Ripley to show a state driver's license or a federal or state issued I.D. card.

Hosts: Ron & Sue Whipple
Marv & Karen Green



**HONORING MN VETERANS
FOR MORE THAN 40 YEARS**



We are a giving church.....wonderful group of people packing, delivering and smiling on June 16th. Thanks to Anne Kostreba for directing the crew in Jean Kraft's absence.



OPERATION SANDWICH IS EVERY THURSDAY THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1.

How can I help?

- Monetary and food donations all summer long. COLLECTION BOX is located in the church narthex. Costco, Cub, Super Valu, Aldi gift cards are used to buy fresh food. Checks designated for Operation Sandwich given through church or sent directly to Bridges of Hope.
- We are blessed with enough volunteers at this time.

REQUESTED FOOD DONATIONS INCLUDE: fruit cups, individually packaged Goldfish & trail mix, fruit snacks, chewy & crunchy granola bars, fruit/veggie squeezes. IMMEDIATE NEED OF SMALL PEANUT BUTTER JARS (18 oz.). Always subject to change.

Questions can be directed to: Jean Kraft, Northern Route Coordinator jean.kraft@icloud.com 838-9646

Welcome Sheri McSherry as our new Lay Ministries Coordinator. Sally has been sharing her vast knowledge of LCC's wonderful volunteers. We wish Sally the best in her retirement, and she will continue to be active in church.

Beginning July 1st, Sheri will be calling for all sorts of volunteer opportunities at LCC. Call her if you are willing to help. Cell #: 218-831-1936



- V** is for the VOLUME of tasks you undertake.
- O** is for the OCEANS of love to your church you make.
- L** is for the LOVE shown to God and to us all.
- U** is for the UNITY in tasks both big and small.
- N** is for the NICEST people for all the things you do.
- T** is for the TIME it takes to do just one or two.
- E** is for the EFFORT as you work to do your part.
- E** is for the ENDLESS joy that swells within my heart.
- R** is for the REASON that you help us here each week.
- S** is for the SMILE from God who views your busy feet.



Written by Arlene Rice – Coordinator of Volunteer Ministries

Volunteer Week April 27th – May 5th, 2009

Dear LCC Friends,

Ten years ago, I was hired to be on staff as Arlene Rice's replacement as Coordinator of Volunteer Ministries. I felt it would be a good part-time job for a few years at that stage of my life. If someone would have told me then that I would work for ten years in this position, I would have said they were crazy. But here I am, ten years later and so very grateful that I've been able to be on staff here at LCC. I have had the opportunity to get to know so many of you wonderful people. I have grown in my faith and my appreciation for our church. We have an amazing staff and leadership! My thanks to the "Best Staff Ever" here at Lutheran Church of the Cross!

My sincere thanks to all of you willing members who have stepped up and done countless volunteer duties through the years here at LCC. You are all a gift and are so valued by our church!

Sheri McSherry will be taking over July 1st. She's a delightful person and will fit right in. Please say "Yes" when she calls on you!

With Sincere Gratitude,

Sally Hodgson



Sun	Mon	Tue	
facility calendar for:			July
<p>3</p> <p>9:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship</p>	<p>4 OFFICE CLOSED</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>5</p> <p>8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayers 9:00 Camp Yap-a-Lap 9:00 Computer Lab 4:00 Private Wedding</p>	<p>6</p> <p>8:30 Text 9:30 Quilt 5:30 Bells</p>
<p>10</p> <p>9:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship/ Congregational Vote 7:30 Lakes Area Music Festival Concert</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:00 Nisswa Safety Town 10:00 Ponder & Prayer 10:00 Nisswa Garden Club 11:00 Soul Sisters</p>	<p>12</p> <p>8:30 Staff Meeting /Prayers 9:00 Camp Yap-a-Lap 9:00 Computer Lab 9:00 Nisswa Safety Town 10:00 Women in the Word 5:00 Lakes Area Food Shelf Board Mtg 7:00 Women in the Word</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Summer 8:30 Text 9:00 Nissw 10:00 Gath 5:30 Bells</p>
<p>17</p> <p>9:00 Worship w/ Communion Guest Preacher: Colleen Bernu 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:40 Adult Forum</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:00 Ponder & Prayer 7:00 People for Racial Justice</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayers 9:00 Camp Yap-a-Lap 9:00 Computer Lab 12:30 PEO Chapter</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Summer S 8:30 Text S 9:30 Quilt 4:00 Creat 5:30 Bells</p>
<p>24</p> <p>9:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 7:30 Lakes Area Music Festival Concert</p> <p>Luther Crest week</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10:00 Ponder & Prayer</p>	<p>26</p> <p>8:30 Staff Meeting/Prayers 9:00 Camp Yap-a-Lap 9:00 Computer Lab 10:00 Novel Ideas Book Club</p>	<p>27</p> <p>8:30 Text 5:30 Bells</p>
<p>31</p> <p>9:00 Worship w/ Communion 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Outdoor Worship w/ Communion</p>			

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<h1>2022</h1>	1	2
<p>Study ers s of Praise</p>	<p>7 9:00 Operation Sandwich 9:00 Summer Stretch 6:30 Church Council 7:00 A.A.</p> 	8	<p>9 9:00 Lake Hubert Board Mtg 9:00 Cullen Lake Assoc. Board 10:00 Private Baptism</p>
<p>Stretch-Twins Game Study wa Safety Town her Bible Study of Praise</p>	<p>14 9:00 Operation Sandwich 9:00 Nisswa Safety Town 12:00 PrimeTimers 7:00 A.A.</p>	<p>15 5:30 Pizza & Game Night</p> 	16
<p>Stretch-ValleyFair Study ers ion Care Team of Praise</p>	<p>21 9:00 Operation Sandwich 7:00 A.A.</p>	22	23
<p>Study of Praise</p>	<p>28 9:00 Operation Sandwich 7:00 A.A.</p>	29	<p>30 8:30 Cullen Lakes Assoc. Board Mtg</p>
			<p>Reminder: Before planning any meeting/event/gathering at church, call the church office for availability and scheduling. Thank you.</p>

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

JULY BIRTHDAYS

1. Carol Christofferson, Daniel Gerlich, Nora Gerlich
2. Angie Lind, Jane Nemitz, Loretta Norgon, Nancy Schmidt, Kris Smith
3. Ashley Mailand, Bob Olson, Lorraine Warnberg
4. Jesse Lind, Joel Troisdahl
5. Gregg Boche, John Hofmann
6. Janice Geiger, Joey Larson
7. Terry Hansen, Estelle Paulson, CeCe Stark
8. Raelynn Carey, Karen Opp, Sara Smith, Sharon Taute
9. Ada Larson, Corbin Mroska, Gabe Raguse, Greg Speed, Joan Steiger
10. Sadie Moore, Marilyn Robb, Rhoda Trafas
11. Connie Foster
12. Dale Bjerkness, Roger Macy
13. Graham Johnson, Sheri McSherry
14. Darin Dirkes, Sandy Loney, Bryan Raguse
15. David Anderholm, Ryan Fogarty, Kelly Nokken, Peter Mann
16. Shellie Cibuzar, Ashley Hanson, Sandy Knutson, Aubrey Thompson
17. Molly Aga, Dick Carlson, Sharon Leese, Lyle MacIver, Darrell Paske, Steve Quisberg, Angella Roby
18. Dennis Hanson, Jake Merseth, Allen Schmidt, Whitney Ulrich, Lee Wangstad
19. Brian Stubbs
20. Vikki Anderson, Marie Bode, Julie Fritz, Michael Rasinski, Vonnie Strand
21. Bennett Day, Werner Schwab, Kathy Zard
22. Emma Moddes, Lillian Nelson, Lynette Nolan
23. Stephen Boulka, Ryan Carey, Kim Dunlap, Jason Evanson, Linda Olson, Kathy Pederson, Scott Timmons
24. Chuck Grillo, Calvin Johnson, Kathryn McAllister, Sandy Reuther, Brad Swanson
25. Carolyn Macy, Dean Maier, Rachel Merseth
26. Mary Klang, Bob Peterson
- 27.
28. Kaden Fillbrandt, Erica Henke, Riley Larson, Thomas Stoxen
29. Erin Herman, Beau Ubl
30. Jana Lueck, Tony Nelson, Delaine Schmidt, Merriam Schmitz
31. Carol Alverson, Julie Domino



Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen News

A big Thank You Jim and Jean Kraft, Chuck and Mary Klang, Lee and Nancy Wangstad, Bonnie Stevens, and the Soul Sisters for serving at the Soup Kitchen the last few months on behalf of LCC. With the price of food and gas going up, so are our number of guests at the soup kitchen. We anticipate the numbers will continue to increase. The Soup Kitchen is also providing over 150 breakfast and lunch bags a week for the homeless that drop in at "Our Place", a mental health service in Brainerd. The mission of the Soup Kitchen continues to demonstrate the love of Christ by providing meals to the hungry of our community 7 days a week. If you would like to help, sign up on the Soup Kitchen calendar in the hall by the nursery, or call, email, or text Ann Bergin, at 218-820-5511 / georgiabergin@gmail.com.



Soul Sisters served 30 guests on June 2nd. Thank you!



\$1250 was raised at the **Quilt Auction** to be given to the Ukraine Relief through the ELCA Disaster Response. A BIG thank you to all who supported and made the winning bids. Thank you also to those who contributed to the completion of the quilts. —LCC Quilters



More of
"The Healing Tree" VBX.





A Message on our ELCA Global Missionary

Russian Correspondent– Bradn Buerkle

Many years ago, I was asked to take part in redesigning the webpage of what had formerly been the “Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia and Other States” (ELCROS, or its German equivalent - ELKRAS). The church in the former Soviet Union was splitting apart – not because of any enmity, but simply because maintaining a single juridical structure across international lines had become infeasible. The church throughout that enormous territory (with most congregations in Russia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, and Georgia) decided to preserve fellowship among its regions through a new, looser structure known as the Union of Evangelical Lutheran Churches. This change seemed to fit changing circumstance - the social contexts of the countries were changing, and in the years to come issues of localizing Lutheranism (to worship in other languages, for example) might take precedence over the shared history. But to return to the website – there was the question of the web address for the Union. It seemed obvious to many that the site should be *elkras.ru*. Why dot *ru*, I wondered, when the church was international? The folks with whom I was working in St. Petersburg acknowledged this, but they countered with the fact that all the non-Russian congregations together made up about a quarter of the Union’s total congregations. Certainly no one abroad would have a problem with the fellowship being centered in Russia, would they? This rhetorical question turned out to be not so rhetorical after all...

I think back to that time as I put together this “Russian Correspondent,” the name I have used for my newsletter ever since my first years of missionary service, almost 20 years. I wonder – how can I describe the relationship I have with the country that has become my second home? How can I explain the reactions of the churches in the region, how it struggles to witness to the Gospel despite its small size and vulnerability? How can God use me in service in this part of the world if living in the country (at least for now) appears to be an unwise option, and what positive role might partners (including readers of this newsletter) play?

As many of you know, my family is split between two countries at the moment; we hope for a full reunion of all five of us later this month. While these developments are still in progress, I have been advised to refrain from being too open about our situation. In the meantime, I wanted to give room for voices from churches in the region. Some of these texts (laid out in a more or less chronological manner) are from participants in the educational programs which I am still leading over Zoom; others are from colleagues on the ground. The violence described is sometimes graphic; hearing these stories is sometimes hard. I hope, however, that they help you get a better sense of how Christians are reacting to the situation, including the need to continue “ordinary” congregational ministry in troubling times.

In Christ,
Bradn



Celebrate the American spirit by exploring books in the Americana and Minnesota sections of your church library!

You will find books such as:

I Pledge Allegiance

It Happened In America

Churches of Minnesota

Creating Minnesota

In the children's section: *The Children's Book of America*

We have purchased the following books along with upcoming Novel Ideas Book Club books which are now on display in the library. Please be sure to fill out the checkout card legibly with the date and your name and then drop it in the slot on the plastic stand. We use these cards to track which books we have, that they are being returned and to see what types of books our church members are reading for future reference. Please return books in a timely manner so others may enjoy them. Thank you!

The Wolf at Twilight

Kent Nerburn

The Girl Who Sang to the Buffalo

Kent Nerburn

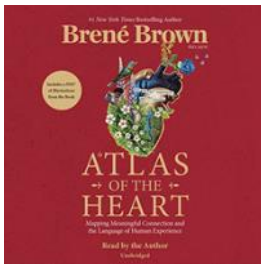
Jesus for Farmers and Fishers

Gary Paul Nabhan

Waiting for White Horses

Nathan Jorgenson

JULY NOVEL IDEAS BOOK



In *Atlas of the Heart*, Brown takes us on a journey through eighty-seven of the emotions and experiences that define what it means to be human. As she maps the necessary skills and an actionable framework for meaningful connection, she gives us the language and tools to access a universe of new choices and second chances—a universe where we can share and steward the stories of our bravest and most heartbreaking moments with one another in a way that builds connection.

July 26 – Chapel Hall – 10am – Refreshments served!

Novel Idea Book Club



A committee of LCC book lovers came up with a list of books that will provide rich discussion. It is the intention this year to keep the attention focused on the current book to keep the discussion timely. We would like to see this book club as an outreach to the community. Please come join us and bring a friend. **You will love the treats!**

Novel Ideas will meet in Chapel Hall at 10:00 am according to the following schedule. Dates may be adjusted as needed during the year.

July 26	<i>Atlas of the Heart</i> by Brené Brown
August 23	<i>The Great Alone</i> by Kristin Hannah
September 27	<i>Blind Your Ponies</i> by Stanley Gordon West
October 25	<i>The Underground Railroad</i> by Colson Whitehead
November 29	<i>Hiding Place</i> by Corrie Ten Boom
December 27	<i>The Best Christmas Pageant Ever</i> by Barbara Robinson OR <i>The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse</i> by Charlie Mackesy

ART & FAITH GALLERY

The Art & Faith Gallery has recently featured Jerry Raedeke's beautiful watercolor farm scenes. I hope you have enjoyed seeing this exhibit!

The next exhibit will feature the carvings created by LCC talented artists.

This exhibit will begin on July 17th in the Art & Faith Gallery. Please take time to enjoy seeing our talented carvers exhibit.





CREATION CARE

What can we do about plastic pollution?

While a congressionally mandated report released last year ranked the U.S. as the world's leading contributor of plastic waste, Canada's Environment Ministry recently announced a **ban on the manufacture and importation of "harmful" single-use plastics by the end of the year**. Most plastic grocery bags, cutlery and straws would come under the ban, with a few exceptions for medical needs, and will come into effect by December of this year. It will also stop exporting such plastics by the end of 2025 in an effort to prevent international pollution. Other global efforts are being undertaken by **Kenya, Chile, the United Kingdom and the European Union**, but in the U.S. there are only piecemeal efforts in states such as New York and California.



The coronavirus pandemic, with its use of disposable masks and personal protective equipment, also led to a sharp rise in pollution, with some **8 million metric tons of pandemic-related plastic waste created by 193 countries**. The United Nations is working on a global treaty to "end plastic pollution," and the U.S. Interior Department is working on an order to phase out **single-use plastic products and packaging on public lands by 2032**.

Be a supporter of efforts to keep plastic litter from disrupting marine life and polluting beaches on our shorelines and in our oceans.



The Creation Care Team Sharing Market Starts July 10 following the 9:00 am service.

Tables will be located in the Narthex.

Bring baked goods, preserves, flowers, and produce for the table. Share your bounty!

Be as generous as possible when purchasing items.



JUNE 2022 LCC Council Highlights

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS Church Council Meeting Thursday, June 16, 2022

We Assemble in God's Name

Devotion: Rachel Gerhartz

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Council President Mike Smith

Present:

Mike Smith; Colleen Both; Darrell Paske; Pastor Bakken; Vicar Ruen; Bonnie Stevens; Sarah Tietz; Rob Norgon; Rachel Gerhartz. Attending by Zoom: Joanie Swanson and Dale Peterson.

Officer Reports:

Council Minutes by Jenny Stubbs (May 2022)

- Motion to approve Sarah Tietz; Second Bonnie Stevens; Motion Passed

Treasurer's Report by Colleen Both (May 2022)

- Motion to approve Rachel Gerhartz; Second Bonnie Stevens; Motion Passed

New Business:

- Volunteer Coordinator. The position has been offered to and accepted by Sheri McSherry subject to council approval. Motion to approve Bonnie Stevens; second by Rob Norgon. Motion Approved. Start date July 1, 2022.

Old Business:

- Committee working on constitution updates continues to meet. Next meeting is July 6, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.
- Garage Remodel. Discussion was had regarding the proposed cost of the remodel of the garage on the East side of the church. Cost of the project would be paid by Rummage Sale proceeds. Committee has approximately \$25,000.00 currently. It is proposed that the balance would be loaned by LCC and repaid interest free to LCC at the rate of \$5,000.00 from the gross proceeds of each future rummage sale until paid in full. Site survey and building permit from the City of Nisswa are in process. Special Congregation meeting will be held on July 10th, 2022, for approval by the congregation.

Pastors' Reports

Pastor Drew:

- The month of May and the beginning of June has been an exciting time in the life of Lutheran Church of the Cross. We celebrated our seniors graduating from High School in our church worship service. Also, included in our graduates' service was Vicar Michelle who had just graduated from Wartburg Seminary. It was truly a moving worship service. Special thank you to our knitters for making those prayer blankets for our youth.
- After many conversations with Bishop Amy and the Northeastern Minnesota Synod we were given the green light to start the call process for an associate pastor here at Lutheran Church of the Cross. The Synod recommended that we use the council as our Call Committee since we would be interviewing one candidate. The Call Committee met on May 26th to interview Vicar Michelle. The Call Committee unanimously agreed to recommend Vicar Michelle as our next associate pastor.

A letter was sent out to the congregation for a congregational meeting after our 9am worship service on June 26th.

- For the last week in May and first week in June I tested positive for COVID so I was in quarantine for two weeks. Our staff had done a remarkable job to make sure that things continued to run smoothly. Thank you to Vicar Michelle for stepping up to preach the last couple of Sundays and for covering the Nursing homes for me.
- At the end of June, we will be wishing Sally a happy retirement. Thank you, Sally, for the last 10 years being our Volunteer Coordinator. We will be honoring Sally and her ministry on June 12th along with all our volunteers.

Vicar Michelle:

- Thank you to everyone for your cards, wishes, and prayers on the occasion of my graduation from Wartburg Theological Seminary on May 15. The beautiful afghan, knit by the LCC Knitters, presented to me by my family during the Sunday church service on May 22 was a complete surprise! It was an honor to be recognized alongside our wonderful Senior graduates! Thank you, LCC Knitters, church council, and the dear members of LCC for your thoughtfulness.
- Thank you to Pastor Drew, the church council, and the staff for your permission to attend my graduation in person the weekend of May 15 on campus of Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. It was a very special and memorable weekend!
- The nursery will continue to be staffed during the summer months. We hope it will encourage members, visitors, and guests to bring their little ones knowing our nursery is open and staffed during the summer months. A huge thank you to our nursery volunteers. We wouldn't be able to do it without you!
- Ministries that will continue during the summer months are Women of the Word Bible Study on the first Tuesday of the month, Women of the Cross (the former Women of ELCA) & Gather on the second Wednesday of the month, Pizza Games on the third Friday of the month, Novel Idea Book Club on the last Tuesday of the month and Ponder and Prayer which meets every Monday morning. The groups that are taking the summer off are Men's Fellowship and A Time for Us, for parents of Confirmation and Route 56 students. We are hoping to plan an Outdoors Adventure gathering for people of all ages later in the summer. Watch for more details. Join in the fun! Happy Summer!

Committee Reports:

Property: Dale Peterson

Several property projects are currently underway and several more are planned for this year. Special thanks to several dedicated volunteers for taking the lead on many of these projects. Here's an update of the major projects.

1. Painting of the Church Building exterior is in progress.
 - a. Repairs are well underway in preparation for painting.
 - b. Painting of the church building, and bell tower will start around mid-June, weather permitting.
 - c. Property Committee volunteer work crews will paint the garage and 2 storage sheds (pending garage addition)
2. Landscaping (south side of Sanctuary) will start in mid-June
 - a. Redo landscape borders.
 - b. Remove roots, select and plant new bushes.

- c. Plant flowers under the new LCC Monument sign.
 - d. Spread black dirt and seed in lawn areas as needed.
3. Relocation of church staff offices is scheduled for mid-summer
 - a. Install opening, window, and door in new church office space.
 - b. Relocate staff as offices are available. LCC staff will coordinate moves.
 4. Install new underground wiring to the garage is planned for mid-summer.
 5. Seal cracks in the parking lot will be early fall.
 6. Remove playground equipment and fence before garage addition.
 - a. Equipment is over 20 years old and in disrepair.
 - b. Playground is closed, and gate is locked.
 7. Addition to garage for rummage sale storage and staging is moving forward. Property survey is complete and favorable. Next step is approval from City of Nisswa.

Stewardship: Rob Norgon

No report

Worship and Music: Brian Stubbs

- The Worship and Music committee will next meet in July, to plan the next church year. -Summer “pickup choir” will be the second Sunday of July and August. -Bells of Praise are meeting through the summer and participating in our worship services throughout. Contact Cheryl Karlgaard if interested - there’s room for more ringers! -Sound system training is still postponed until Music General has fewer conflicts. No Council action is needed at this time.

Social Concerns and Global Missions: Bonnie Stevens

- Social & Global Concerns
The Larsons have reported the Vacation Bible School supplies to York Landing are on hold temporarily due to repairs to the barge into the community. They are hoping to have it back up and running by mid-August. The only other way into York is by air and that is prohibitively expensive. Linda and Al are also looking into mailing something for the kids. They’ll hold LCC’s check until they know how the situation works out.
- Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service
LIRS is organizing a National Call-in day to support refugee status in the US on June 22. A script is provided to use in contacting US Senators and Representatives by LIRS.
- Russia Missionary-Pastor Bradn Buerkle
Pastor Buerkle (our Global Missionary to Russia) continues to work in partnership with the Hermannsburg Mission and the ELCA to support Russian-speaking Christians – both those who have escaped the violence and those that remain in their homes. The situation has obviously changed and they are working on ways to be of the best assistance at this time. His family is currently separated between Germany and Russia – and hopes to be reunited early this summer.
- Habitat Faith Build Project
The Svoboda Home is waiting for concrete to be poured. Framing will begin after that project is completed.

Children and Family Ministry: Rachel Gerhartz

- We had a wonderful ending to Confirmation and Route 56 with a fabulous Messtival in Chapel Hall - kids and adults had a great time!

- We have 24 kids participating in Summer Stretch this year so prep for that has taken much of Kari's time the last few weeks. Thursday, June 9th they will clean up the highway and then check out Nisswa Falls Mini Golf after a cookout lunch. This year's theme is Stretch Your Limits, and our bible verse is Hebrews 4:12 - For the word of God is living and active...discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.
- VBX registrations are trickling in, and next week Kari will reach out to volunteers with specifics. She put together a VBX materials/kit for Linda Larson to use when they go up to Canada.
- Grad Recognition Sunday was a success, and we had many very grateful kids and parents. Kari will continue Cross Kids throughout the summer.

Youth and Family Ministry: Sarah Tietz

- So, in May we finished up Confirmation with a fun night of messy games.
- We hosted Senior Recognition on May 22 and each grad had a poster display in Celebration Center and received a gift of a cross keychain inscribed with Joshua 1:9 along with a copy of "A Pocketful of Bible Promises for Graduates." Mary Hubert created special cards for each of the grads and these were signed by the LCC staff. Each grad also received a card signed by our Church Council. We served cake during coffee fellowship as well. Many parents expressed gratitude for the special day. We also awarded scholarships to Grace Whipple, Carly Maine, Ara Anderson and Megan Oelke.
- Summer Stretch is underway, and we have 25 youth participating. Our first outing involved cleaning our stretch of 371 followed by a cookout lunch, a great devotion, mini golf at Nisswa Falls, and games and water balloons at church. Our theme this year is "Stretch Your Limits" and our theme verse is Hebrews 4:12 - *For the word of God is alive and active, discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.* This week we will travel to Salem West for work in the morning followed by lunch and devotion, then fun at the Three Bear waterpark in Baxter.
- Pastor and Kari set the date for Confirmation 2022 and invitations were sent to all confirmands. Our Faith Statement Sharing and Dessert will be on September 17, with Affirmation of Baptism service at 11:30am on September 18. We will also host a mandatory mini retreat on August 17 from 5:30 - 8pm. We will have supper, make stoles, and finalize faith statements.

Congregational Life: Joanie Swanson

- Women of the Cross had a wonderful and informative presentation by Gabbie at Copper Creek on May 19th with a luncheon following.
- Afghans were presented to the High School Seniors on May 22nd made by the Prayer Shawl Group. Always a day of remembrance as we as their Church Family reflect on their faith journey and their bright futures.
- The Memorial Garden was spruced up, flowers planted, and flags placed for remembrance after the Sunday service Memorial Day weekend.
- Operation Sandwich / Northern Route has started for the summer.
- Thankful for the many volunteers that make these things happen.

Personnel: Darrell Paske

All staff evaluations have been completed. The position of Volunteer Coordinator has been offered and accepted by Sheri McSherry subject to Council approval.

Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by

Darrell Paske, Council Vice President

Next Council Meeting:

Thursday, July 7, 2022, 6:30 pm

All are welcome at Council meetings.

Approved minutes and approved financial reports are available in the church office to any member upon request. If you would like to have something on the Council meeting agenda, please submit it in writing addressed to President Mike Smith and delivered to the office manager in the church office no less than one week prior to the monthly Council meeting, the council meets the second Thursday of the month. If the request is submitted less than one week prior to the next Council meeting it will be addressed at the following monthly meeting.



On Sunday, June 26th at the congregational meeting, the congregation voted to extend a call to Vicar Michelle Ruen as LCC's new Associate Pastor.

Save the date for Sunday, August 28th for Michelle's Ordination and Installation service and reception.

All are welcome to join in this celebration.



Congregational meeting will be held Sunday, July 10th in the Celebration Center following the 9:00 am worship service. Purpose of meeting is to vote on proceeding with the garage addition project as proposed by the rummage sale committee.



Beautiful day for
Outdoor Worship in
the Memorial
Garden on June
19th.



SCSU'S DRIVER DISCOUNT PROGRAM FOR DRIVERS OVER 55 YEARS OF AGE

8-HOUR CLASS FOR FIRST-TIME STUDENTS

4-HOUR REFRESHER COURSE FOR RETURNING STUDENTS

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**Classes held at Lutheran Church of the Cross
August 5 (4 Hr Refresher) 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
September 2 (4 Hr Refresher) 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM**

Lutheran Church of the Cross

PO Box 29
5064 County Road 13
Nisswa, MN 56468

Main Phone: 218-963-2564
Web: lccnisswa.org
E-mail: lcc@lccnisswa.org

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

Address label here

Welcoming all people into discipleship

STAFF

Pastor	Drew Bakken	218-961-2014
Vicar	Michelle Ruen	218-961-2013
Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry	Kari Erickson	218-961-2012
Director of Music Ministry/Organist	Cathy Taylor	218-961-2053
Financial Secretary	Karen Wiele	218-961-2016
Lay Ministry Coordinator	Sheri McSherry	218-961-2052
Senior Choir Director	Brian Stubbs	
Organist	Laura Raedeke	
Bell Choir Director	Cheryl Karlgaard	
King's Kids	Carol Smith	
Custodian	Todd Whipple	218-963-2564
ELCA Global Missionary	Bradn Buerkle	
LCC Office	Laurie Hemish	218-961-2011

2022 CHURCH COUNCIL

President	Mike Smith	Social Justice/Global	Bonnie Stevens
Vice President	Darrell Paske	Worship & Music	Brian Stubbs
Treasurer	Colleen Both	Youth	Sarah Tietz
Secretary	Jenny Stubbs	Stewardship	Rob Norgon
Cong. Life	Joanie Swanson		
Children/Family	Rachel Gerhartz		
Properties	Dale Peterson		

